

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed February 23, 2004.

By this Amendment, the specification has been amended to effect amendments which were effected in the parent application. Further, claims 1, 5-18, 22-30 and 34-42 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to their underlying subject matter, and claims 2-4, 19-21, 31-33 and 43-45 have been amended to put the claims in better form under U.S. practice. Support for the claim amendments can be found variously throughout the specification. Claims 2-4, 19-21, 31-33 and 43-45 are pending in this application.

The Title of the Invention has also been amended to correspond with the amendments to the claims.

In view of this Amendment, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejection under Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 1, 5-18, 22-30 and 34-42 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-33 of U.S. Patent 6,411,033. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

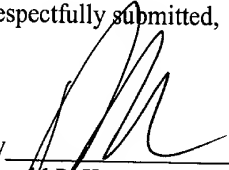
However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has cancelled these claims, thereby, mooted this rejection. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are believed to be clearly patentable over the outstanding rejections. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the claims in light of the above remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Dated: April 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ronald P. Kananen
Registration No.: 24,104
RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W.
Suite 501
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 955-3750
Attorneys for Applicant

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 180013 for any such fees, and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.